

HB 458 -- FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 4.

This bill allows a firearms owner to transport and store firearms in privately owned, locked vehicles in parking garages, lots, and parking spaces. Property owners, tenants, employers, and business entities are exempt from both civil and criminal liability for any occurrences involving these firearms and the entity may require firearms to be kept in a locked case and hidden from view if stored in a vehicle. An owner or employer may ban employee firearms from vehicles owned or leased by the employer or owner. An employer and business may ban firearms from certain limited access parking areas if storage areas for firearms are made available to the employee or customer, or if alternative parking areas are provided that are reasonably close to the business or employer.

This bill is the same as HB 1586 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that employees need to be able to store their firearms somewhere while at work. Often employees have to go through bad neighborhoods to get from work to their homes and they want the opportunity to defend themselves but the current law allows business owners to ban guns even from their parking lots. The rights of the business owners are not more important than the safety of the their employees.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill and Missourians For Personal Safety.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.